

Say 5,757 Acres Not Needed

Includes State
Shooting Grounds

By FRANK KUEST
(Herald-News Bureau)

WASHINGTON (Copley Press)—The Army Friday officially confirmed its intention of reducing the operations of the Joliet Arsenal.

Lt. Col. Donald T. Kellet, a member of the Army's congressional liaison staff, informed Rep. Noah Mason (R-Ill.) that a portion of the land of the Joliet Arsenal operation has been declared excess to government requirements.

Mason had asked the Army to detail why it would shut down a portion of its operations at the Joliet Arsenal.

Kellet said the shutdown involved a safety area operated by Army Ordnance involving some 3,852 acres of land, which originally cost the government \$275,000.

This acreage will be declared surplus to Army needs and placed in the hands of the General Services Administration, the government's housekeeping agency, for disposal to other federal agencies if they need the property or for private sale on a competitive bid basis.

The Army advised Mason that a Defense Department screening has indicated that 5,757 acres of land of the Joliet Arsenal operation now are not required for national defense. Included in this area is 4,388 acres devoted to wildlife and hunting and the leased land comprising 85 acres which will be returned to the State of Illinois. Other areas, totaling 910 acres, are under lease for civilian agricultural utilization at a total annual rental income to the government of \$18,601.

The Army said that 1,500 acres will be required for army training purposes in the Joliet Arsenal area.

The Army said that a review of its requirements showed that the national defense would not be hampered at the Joliet Arsenal if the balance of the 3,852 acres are released for public sale.

The Army has asked the House and Senate Armed Services Committee to approve the disposal of the so-called excess property at the Joliet Arsenal which also covers the Elwood and Kankakee Ordnance depots.